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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: G-20, U.S.-CHINA-TAIWAN RELATIONS, NORTH KOREA

¶1. Summary: Taiwan's major Chinese-language dailies focused news coverage April 3 on the agreements reached at the G20 summit in London to rescue the global economy; on the legislators' move to cut tax, and on the year-end Taipei County Magistrate election.

¶2. In terms of editorials and commentaries, the G20 summit was a major subject of discussion in local newspapers. An editorial in the pro-unification "United Daily News" commented on the G20 summit, saying the G20 summit matters as to whether the global economic and financial order can be rebuilt. A news analysis in the "United Daily News" said that holding a G20 summit is better than not holding it, even though the summit offers no panacea for the financial crisis, and it questioned whether world leaders will allow the Anglo-Saxon style of economy, meaning that of the United States and the United Kingdom, to continue its leadership role during the global financial crisis. An op-ed, also in the "United Daily News," agreed with a recent argument that the G20 summit is actually a G2 summit, meaning a summit between Chinese President Hu Jintao and United States President Barack Obama. The op-ed said that an era is coming of the United States and China coordinating and leading the world. Concerning the U.S., China and Taiwan relations, an editorial in the conservative, pro-unification, English-language "China Post" praised United States President Barack Obama's conduct of his meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao. The editorial said that, judging from United States President Obama's performance in the last few months, it is unlikely that the Obama Administration will have any major policy changes regarding cross-Straits issues, which is a good thing for Taiwan. An op-ed in the pro-independence, English-language "Taipei Times" came up with three suggestions to United States President Barack Obama and Congress, so that the United States can assure its national security and interests across the Taiwan Strait. One of the three suggestions included deploying at least two aircraft carrier task forces in the Western Pacific. On the North Korean issue, a column in the centrist, KMT-leaning "China Times" asserted that the United States and China must have already known that what North Korea intends to launch is actually a satellite, not a ballistic missile. The column says Japan's insistence that what North Korea is going to launch is a missile is an excuse for Japan to revive its militarism. End summary.

¶3. G-20

A) "G20 Summit Walks on the Watershed of Crisis"

The pro-unification "United Daily News" [circulation: 400,000] editorialized (4/3):

"... Regarding this G20 summit, if all countries still make their own one-sided decisions as before the summit and only care about their own interests at the moment, there is the danger that the summit could start an even greater depression than what the London Economic Conference of 1933 caused. Nowadays, one third of global experts believe that a great depression is imminent, which is a manifestation of pessimism. However, if all countries make the summit successful by sharing in hardship during a time of crisis,

compromising with each other and, at least, establish a framework and make promises regarding problems for the medium term and beyond, the summit will relieve [all countries] from predicaments. Even though [the summit] might not revive the 'irrational prosperity' that the world has experienced over the last few years, at least it achieves stabilization as well as mutual trust, and cooperation is within expectation.

"Therefore, the G20 summit is an especially important meeting which matters to the global welfare. It [G20 summit] is equivalent to a watershed of the reestablishment of global finance and economy. The summit will decide whether it will be a disaster or a blessing [to the global finance and economy]. ..."

B) "The U.S. Caused Trouble, Bad Luck to the World; Still Let the U.S. Be the Banker?"

European correspondent Chen Yu-hui wrote a news analysis in the "United Daily News" [circulation: 400,000] (4/3):

"The economic entities which attended the G20 summit in London account for ninety percent of global GDP and wished to find countermeasures to deal with the global economic crisis. Needless to say, there is certainly no panacea. However, it is always much better to hold a summit than not.

"The first question is that, a crisis occurred in the global economy, which used to operate based on the Anglo-Saxon style of economy. Is the style of thinking in Wall Street and London still able to resolve the problems? At least, politicians in Berlin, Moscow and Paris do not believe this anymore. ...

"Facing the domestic economy, every country has its own way. Facing the global economy, many leaders are starting to question, can the Anglo-Saxon style of economy still be the banker without being challenged? Or has the global economy been shuffled during the summit?"

C) "An Era of Coordination between United States and China Has Arrived"

Chen Hsin-chih, an Associate Professor of the Department of Political Science at National Cheng Kung University, opined in the pro-unification "United Daily News" [circulation: 400,000] (4/3):

"The financial tsunami changed countries' understandings of the allotment of global power. China and the United States, after weighing their own powers' rise and fall and close, mutually reliant economic, trade and financial relations, are jointly speeding up the formation of a consensus trying hard to build a Twentieth-First Century with active cooperation. A prologue for China and the United States to coordinate and cooperate to run the world has been unveiled.

"In the future, the international political, economic and security system will be coordinated by China and the United States before its tone is set. The room for second-tier powers to maneuver will decrease gradually. The direction of change across the Taiwan Strait will be much more restricted in the future. ...

"The global structure is shifting from the United States being the unilateral hegemon towards China and the United States being the hegemonies with a mechanism of coordination to run the world jointly. The United States is not necessarily declining, and China is likely to rise peacefully. By comparison, the Sino-U.S. coordination mechanism will produce disadvantages for countries such as [those of] the European Union and Japan, whose political and economic power is declining. Ordinary small countries even face the crisis of being marginalized rapidly. The coordination between China and the United States will further reinforce the stability across the Taiwan Strait. However, it also adds pressure on Taiwan to maintain Taiwan's leading role on issues."

14. U.S.-China-Taiwan Relations

A) "First G-20 Summit Went Well for Taiwan"

The conservative, pro-unification, English-language "China Post" [circulation: 30,000] editorialized (4/3):

"After much speculation, the long-anticipated first face-to-face meeting between mainland Chinese President Hu Jintao and U.S. President Barack Obama appears to have gone without a hitch. ...

"Indeed, reports from Washington have suggested that Obama even brought up the issue of human rights in Taiwan and Tibet during the meeting, although no details have been confirmed.

"Before Obama was elected, his opponents accused him of lacking experience in dealing with complicated international issues. But since taking office, Obama has not made any blunders on China policy, and indeed appears to have followed the advice of seasoned experts.

"Obama did not take the bait of issuing a harsh reaction when a U.S. naval ship was harassed by mainland Chinese vessels in March. Instead, he agreed with Hu that military-to-military exchanges should be expanded, which is a most prudent way to avoid similar clashes in the future. ...

"As a flicker of warming U.S.-China relations, Obama has accepted Hu's invitation to visit mainland China later this year. Based on their first exchange, however, the ROC should be able to rest easy knowing the Obama administration will not likely introduce major policy changes that could undermine cross-strait relations."

B) "A Storm is Gathering in the Strait"

Li Thian-hok, a freelance commentator based in Pennsylvania, opined in the pro-independence, English-language "Taipei Times" [circulation: 30,000] (4/3):

"Given the increasingly dangerous and fluid situation in the Taiwan Strait, on the 30th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) it is important to remind US President Barack Obama and Congress to reaffirm the spirit and letter of the TRA both in word and deed. ...

The greatest threat to the US' homeland security is not a terrorist attack with a dirty bomb; it is an unexpected, nuclear Pearl Harbor. The basic US national security strategy is misdirected. In order

to keep the peace in East Asia and ultimately to protect homeland security, the US must continue to support democracy and uphold the Taiwanese people's legitimate aspirations for freedom.

"To keep the peace in the Taiwan Strait and to encourage China to pursue peaceful development, we urge the US president and Congress to take the following steps:

"First, reaffirm the US policy that the future of Taiwan must be determined by peaceful means and that the US opposes any unilateral action to change the status quo;

"Second, deploy at least two aircraft carrier task forces in the Western Pacific and secure basing rights in the Philippines and the Ryukyu Islands as part of US efforts to maintain the capacity to resist any resort to force or other forms of coercion;

"Third, develop a contingency plan to empower an international commission to conduct and supervise a plebiscite on Taiwan under the right circumstances to allow the Taiwanese people to exercise their basic human right to decide their future without outside pressure or internal subversion. ..."

15. North Korea

"What North Korea Will Launch Should Be a Satellite"

The "International Lookout" column in the centrist, KMT-leaning "China Times" [circulation: 150,000] wrote (4/3):

"Is the object that North Korea is going to launch a satellite or a ballistic missile? This column believes that it is likely a satellite. The United States should also have knowledge of it.

Only Japan has a hidden purpose, and it is deliberately pretending that it is confused [about what North Korea is going to launch].
...

"[Since] the situation is so clear, so why does Japan still insist that what North Korea is going to launch is a ballistic missile? The point is that Japan is cunning. Just [let us] use an article in the United States' 'Pacific Forum' as evidence: 'The incident of North Korean agents' abduction of Japanese citizens in those years has become a symbol which fuels Japanese nationalism. Japanese media, for their own business interests, recklessly hype up the issue and demonize North Korea. Guided by Japanese public opinion, being anti-North Korea becomes politically correct.' Of course, this [instance] is media hype once again. The Japanese government then follows suit and becomes tough. There is no other purpose other than to create a threat, so that Japan can expedite its goal to become a country with a strong military and eventually resume militarism. The purpose of Japan's constant hype of China's military power also lies in this."

YOUNG